Security Gets Added Weight In Ford Plans

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After days of steady denials that such a move was contemplated, the White House confirmed yesterday that security issues are being given more weight in making up President Ford's travel schedule.

"He is probably not going to go as many places as you had thought he would," said White House press secretary Ron Nessen.

At his morning briefing, Nessen emphasized that President Ford has not canceled any officially announced trips, but "a few of the tentative trips, which various White House sources have said were under consideration, have been ruled out.

Nessen refused to give details, saying his office was starting a new policy of not giving out any information on trips until details were completed and officially approved.

He did officially announce that after visiting Chicago for a Republican fund-raiser next Tuesday, the President will go on to Omaha, where he was born, on Wednesday to attend a White House conference on domestic issues, and will attend a similar White House conference in Knoxville, Tenn., Oct. 7.

Nessen insisted his office's new policy had nothing to do with security. Another White House source said:

"As we move through the weeks ahead, there will be greater sensitivity to security considerations than would

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have been the case prior to the Sacramento and San Francisco incidents," where the President's life was apparently threatened twice in 17 days.

Asked why his statement yesterday of some potential trips being cut directly contradicted his statements of the past few days, Nessen said, "I know more today than I did yesterday." He said he had talked with White House staff director Donald Rumsfeld.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, said presidential security would be helped by delaying word of coming presidential trips until the last possible moment. President Ford, then a congressman, was a member of that commission.

As of yesterday morning, the White House had received 199 telegrams urging the President to curtail his travel, 63 urging improved gun control legislation, and 30 opposing improved gun control, Nessen said.

Some 76 telephone calls were counted urging curtailed travel, while 15 urged no change in his public appearances. Nessen said he did not have a figure on the number of telegrams favoring no change in travel plans.

President Ford met with Colombian President Alfonso Michelsen for a little more than an hour, discussing what the White House called "global, hemispheric and bilateral matters." Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was present, and the White House said the two men plan to meet again today to continue their "frank and cordial" discussions.